

13. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in claim 11 or 12 characterised in that the elastic means (78, 84) comprise elastic washers or legs.

14. (Amended) An installation for the circulation of part-carrying pallets characterised in that it comprises a transfer apparatus (14) according to claim 1 arranged to deposit a part (38) on a pallet (12) immobilised at the location of a station (36) of the installation.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 remain in the application. Claims 3-5, 7-9, and 13-14 have been amended. It is respectfully requested that the foregoing preliminary amendment be entered prior to examination.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,  
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) An apparatus as set forth in [one of claims 1 and 2] claim 1 or 2 characterised in that transporter (42) comprises a mechanism (22, 45, 44) involving crossed movements, which is adapted to provide pilot-control of a carriage (46) in two mutually perpendicular horizontal directions (F1, F2), and the carriage (46) carries a vertical actuator (48) which supports the gripping device (50).

4. (Amended) An apparatus as set forth in [one of claims 1 through 3] claim 1 characterised in that the gripper (50) comprises two movable jaws (52) adapted to be moved towards each other to grasp the part (38) on the distributor (40) and to be moved away from each other to deposit it in the positioning tool (64).

5. (Amended) An apparatus as set forth in [one of claims 1 through 4] claim 1 characterised in that the manipulator (60) comprises an actuator (66) involving vertical displacement, which carries a support arm (68) adapted to pivot over a limited angular range of selected value, and the support arm (68) supports the gripper (62) to permit the latter to be displaced by a combined movement of horizontal rotation and vertical translation.

7. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in [one of claims 5 and 6] claim 5 or 6 characterised in that said limited angular range corresponds to 180°.

8. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in [one of claims 5 through 7] claim 5 characterised in that the gripper (62) comprises two movable jaws (70) adapted to be moved towards each other to grasp the part (38) in the positioning tool (54) and to be moved away from each other to deposit it in the positioning receptacle (64) carried by the pallet (12).

9. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in [one of claims 5 through 8] claim 5 characterised in that it comprises centering means (72, 76, 82) adapted to effect precise mutual positioning of the gripper (62) on the one hand with the positioning tool (54) and on the other hand with the positioning receptacle (64) carried by the pallet.

13. (Amended) Apparatus as set forth in [one of claims 11 and 12] claim 11 or 12 characterised in that the elastic means (78, 84) comprise elastic washers or legs.

14. (Amended) An installation for the circulation of part-carrying pallets characterised in that it comprises a transfer apparatus (14) according to [one of claims 1 through 13] claim 1 arranged to deposit a part (38) on a pallet (12) immobilised at the location of a station (36) of the installation.